

James 2:14-26

Discussion Group Questions

May 4, 2008

LESSON 5

Dr. Jerry Nelson

For discussion following the sermon on May 4, 2008

Relationship of Faith and Action

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways is faith without deeds described (verses 14, 17 and 20)?
2. What implications does James' description of workless faith have on the subject of who is truly saved?
3. According to verse 19, in what way can you believe and not be a believer?
4. How are James' remarks on Abraham's and Rahab's righteousness not a contradiction of Paul's teaching on righteousness by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9; and Romans 4:5)? (Consider that Paul and James may be using the same word "righteousness" to describe two related but different things.)

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5. How do verses 2:14-26 continue the theme of 1:27; 2:1, 8, 12-13? What “deeds” does James most likely have in mind?

6. Compare and contrast orthodoxy (right doctrine 2:19), moral purity (1:27) and social justice (1:27, 2:15-16). What are Evangelicals (and you) strongest in, weakest in?

7. In Luke 13:5 Jesus said, “But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” In Mark 1:15, he said, “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.” In John 14:15 he said, “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” In Acts 16:30-31 we read, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They (Paul and Silas) replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...” Paul also wrote in Romans 10:9 “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” In Acts 26:20 Paul wrote, “I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.” John wrote, 1 John 4:7-8 “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” **What is the relationship of repentance, obedience, faith, and salvation?**

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